

08-01-00

A

Practitioner's Docket No. 1320

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Box Patent Application
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Michael K. Hargens; Jo Temming

For (title): COMMUNICATION ACCOUNT SYSTEM

1. Type of Application

This transmittal is for an original (nonprovisional) application.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTIONS 1.8(a) AND 1.10*

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is **mandatory**;
 Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

[] deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

37 C.F.R. Section 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. Section 1.10*

[] with sufficient postage as first class mail.

[] as "Express Mail Post Office to Address"
 Mailing Label No. EL573144769US
 (mandatory)

Date: July 31, 2000

Heather Bailey
 Signature

(type or print name of person certifying)

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" **must** have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. Section 1.10(b).
 "Since the filing of correspondence under [Section] 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will **not** be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

2. Papers Enclosed

A. Required for filing date under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 C.F.R. 1.153 (Design) Application

12 Page(s) of Specification

15 Page(s) of Claims

8 Sheet(s) of Drawing(s)--Formal

B. Other Papers Enclosed

2 Page(s) of declaration and power of attorney

1 Page(s) of abstract

3. Declaration or Oath

Enclosed

Not Executed

4. Language

English

5. Assignment

An assignment of the invention to Sprint Communications Company, L.P. will follow.

6. Fee Calculation (37 C.F.R. Section 1.16)

Regular Application

CLAIMS AS FILED					
Claims	Number Filed	Basic Fee Allowance	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee 37 CFR 1.16(a) \$690.00
Total Claims (37 CFR 1.16(c))	99	- 20 =	79 x	\$18.00	\$1,422.00
Independent Claims (37 CFR 1.16(b))	9	- 3 =	6 x	\$78.00	\$468.00
Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if any (37 CFR 1.16(d))			+	\$260.00	\$0.00

Filing Fee Calculation \$2,580.00

7. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

Enclosed
Filing Fee \$2,580.00

Total Fees Enclosed \$2,580.00

8. Method of Payment of Fees

Charge Account No. 21-0765 in the amount of \$2,580.00.

10. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. 21-0765.

37 C.F.R. Section 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)

37 C.F.R. Section 1.16(b), (c) or (d) (presentation of extra claims)

37 C.F.R. Section 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to SECTION 1.136(a))

37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (application processing fees)

11. Instructions as to Overpayment

Credit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

ATTORNEY CONTACT:

Travis C. Stephenson, Reg. No. 45,132

Phone: (303) 379-1100

Fax: (303) 379-1155

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer No. 021396

Attn: Harley R. Ball
Sprint Law Department
8140 Ward Parkway
Mailstop: MOKCMP0506
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Be it known that we, Michael K. Hargens and Jo Temming, with residence and citizenship listed below, have invented the inventions described in the following specification entitled:

COMMUNICATION ACCOUNT SYSTEM

Michael K. Hargens residence: 410 West 67th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64113
citizenship: United States of America

Jo Temming residence: 10901 West 131st Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
citizenship: United States of America

COMMUNICATION ACCOUNT SYSTEM

RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable

5

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable

MICROFICHE APPENDIX

10

Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to communication systems, and specifically, to a communication account system that dynamically provides individual communication accounts to communication devices for transfer to users.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

It is known in the art of telecommunications to provide calling card accounts to customers over the Internet. Since these accounts are purchased on-line, a customer generally does not receive a physical card. Rather, the customer receives account information in the form of a personal identification number ("PIN") and a toll free access number that allows the customer to utilize the account. These accounts are generally one of two types. A pre-paid account is an account with a pre-defined amount of usage paid for in advance by the customer. A usage-based account is an account that is billed on a periodic billing cycle according to the usage during the billing period.

To purchase an account, a customer connects to a service provider's website and places an order. The communication account information is then delivered to the customer using one of several methods depending on the type of order, type of customer, and the service provider. Where only a single account is purchased, the service provider typically presents the account

information on the customer's computer display. In the case of a bulk purchase, often used by business customers, the service provider presents the account information via a computer disk or email. Upon purchasing the calling card accounts, a customer is free to use the account as they choose. For example, a business customer could purchase a batch of pre-paid accounts to

5 provide as a promotion to its own customers. As an example, the business could provide a complimentary promotional account to its own customers in response to a transaction with the business's own website.

Unfortunately, the transmission and management of large batches of calling card accounts over the Internet is problematic for both the service provider and the customer. The

10 service provider must generate, manage, and provide in a secure manner large quantities of account information to multiple customers. On the other hand, the customer upon receiving the account information must manage and store the accounts in a secure manner until they are exhausted. In addition, because pre-paid accounts often expire after a pre-determined time period, the customer must accurately forecast its calling account requirement to avoid shortages or premature expiration.

15

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention advances the art by providing a communication account system configured to dynamically provide communication accounts to communication devices for

20 immediate transfer to users. A first advantage of the present invention is that the requesting communication device could be an internet device such as a web server, a wireless device, or a wireline device. A second advantage of the present invention is that the communication account could be any type of communication account provided by a service provider. A third advantage of the present invention is that the communication account system generates and provides

25 individual communication accounts to the requesting device on demand, thus eliminating the requirement for customers to purchase and manage large batches of communication accounts. A fourth advantage of the present invention is that the communication account system provides various types of communication accounts to various types of devices for immediate transfer to users of those devices.

30 The communication account system comprises a communication account server coupled to an interface system. The communication account server is configured to receive a

communication account request message from the communication device, validate the communication device, and associate a communication account with the communication device in response to the validation. The communication account server then generates and provides a response message indicating the communication account information to the communication device. The interface system is configured to receive the communication account request message from the communication device and provide the response message to the communication device for the communication account server.

In the context of the present invention, a wireline account is defined as any account that provides access to and usage of a wireline network. A wireless account is any account that provides access to and usage of a wireless network, and an internet account is any account that provides access to and usage of an internet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a network architecture according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the operational steps of a communication account system according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates another example of a network architecture according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating another example of the operational steps of a communication account system according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates another example of a network architecture according to the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a flow chart illustrating another example of the operational steps of a communication account system according to the present invention;

FIG. 7 is an example of a communication account system according to the present invention; and

FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating another example of the operational steps of a communication account system according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Network Configuration and Operation FIGS. 1-6:

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a network architecture for a communication account system according to the present invention. FIG. 1 depicts users 104, 105, and 106, communication devices 101, 102, and 103, and a communication account system 100. The

communication device 101 is connected to the users 104 and to the communication account system 100. The communication device 102 is connected to the users 105 and to the communication account system 100. The communication device 103 is connected to the users 106 and to the communication account system 100.

5 The communication account system 100 could be any communication system that receives communication account request messages from the communication devices 101, 102, and 103 and processes individual communication account request messages to: 1) validate the requesting communication device, 2) associate a communication account with the requesting communication device in response to the validation, and 3) generate a response message for the
10 communication device indicating the communication account information in response to the association.

The communication accounts could be any type of communication account offered by a service provider. Some examples of the communication accounts include without limitation, a wireline account, a wireless account, or an internet account. The communication account
15 information could be any information that provides access to and usage of the communication account. An example of communication account information for a wireline account could be a toll free access number and PIN that provides access and usage of a wireline network. An example of communication account information for a wireless account could be an access number and PIN that provides access to and usage of a wireless network. An example of
20 communication account information for an internet account could be an access number to an internet service provider ("ISP") and password that provides access to and usage of an internet.

Communication devices 101, 102, and 103 could be any communication devices configured to generate the communication account request message, receive the response message indicating the communication account information, and provide the communication
25 account information to the users 104, 105, and 106. Some examples of the communication devices include without limitation, a web server, a wireless device, and a wireline device.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the operation of the communication account system 100 according to the present invention. On FIG. 2 the operation begins at step 200. At step 201, the communication account system 100 receives a communication account
30 request message from one of the communication devices 101, 102, or 103. At step 202, the communication account system 100 processes the communication account request message to

validate the requesting communication device e.g. 101. The validation process could be any process where the communication account system 100 confirms that the requesting communication device 101 is a legitimate client. In some examples of the present invention, the validation process could comprise a comparison of an identification associated with the communication device 101 against a list of valid communication device identifications.

Responsive to validating the communication device 101 the communication account system 100 associates a communication account with the requesting communication device 101 at step 203. The association process could be any process where the communication account system determines a type of communication account that should be provided and selects that account type from a plurality of available account types for the requesting communication device 101. Responsive to associating a communication account with the communication device 101, the communication account system 100 generates and transmits a response message to the requesting communication device 101 at step 204, and the operation ends at step 205. The response message for the communication device 101 includes the communication account information for the communication device 101.

FIG. 3 illustrates another example of a network architecture for a communication account system 300 of the present invention. Those skilled in the art will appreciate numerous variations that do not depart from the present invention. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that various features described below could be combined with the above described embodiment to form multiple variations of the invention.

FIG. 3 depicts users 104, 105, and 106, web servers 301, 302, and 303, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) 305, a world wide web (web) 304, and a communication account system 300. The web server 301 is connected to the web 304 and to the communication account system 300. The web server 302 is connected to the web 304 and to the communication account system 300. The web server 303 is connected to the web 304 and to the communication account system 300. The PSTN 305 is connected to the web 304 and to the users 104, 105, and 106.

The communication account system 300 could be any communication system that receives communication account request messages from the web servers 301, 302, and 303 and processes individual communication account request messages to: 1) validate the requesting web server, 2) associate a communication account with the requesting web server in response to the

validation, and 3) generate a response message for the web server indicating communication account information in response to the association.

The users 104, 105, and 106 are customers of the web servers 301, 302, and 303. The users 104, 105, and 106 access the web servers 301, 302, and 303 in a conventional manner such as by a web browser resident on the users terminal device that initiates a connection over the PSTN 305 with an ISP.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the operation of the communication account system 300 according to the present invention. In this example, the web server 301 is hosting a promotion where it is configured to provide a promotional pre-paid calling card account to its users in response to a transaction with the web server 301. The transaction could be any transaction chosen by the operators of the web server 301 that triggers the promotion and the need for the promotional calling card account.

On FIG. 4 the operation begins at step 400. At step 401, a user e.g. 104 connects to the web server 301. At step 402, the user 104 conducts a transaction with the web sever 301 that triggers the promotion and the requirement for the promotional calling card account. In response to the transaction, the web server 301 generates and transmits a communication account request message for the communication account system 300 at step 403. The communication account system 300 receives the communication account request message and processes the message to validate the web server 301 at step 404. The validation process includes performing a lookup operation that compares an address identification associated with the web server 301 with a list of valid web server address identifications. Responsive to an affirmative validation, the communication account system 300 processes the communication account request message to associate a communication account with the web sever 301 at step 405. In some examples of the invention, the type of communication account associated with the web server 301 is determined by a service agreement between the web server 301 and the communication account system 300. In other examples of the invention, the communication account system 300 could be configured to determine the type of communication account to associate with the web server 301 based on user information provided in the communication account request message by the web server 301. In this case the user information could include various types of information with some examples including but not limited to, the type of transaction conducted by the user 104, the monetary value of the transaction, and the identification of the user 104.

During the association process the communication account system 300 could process the user information to provide various types of communication accounts as a function of the user information provided. For example, the communication account system 300 could associate different accounts for different transactions. As one example, the communication account system 300 could associate a calling card account for a purchase transaction and a wireless account for a user that completes a survey. The communication account system 300 could also associate different account values based on the user information. As one example, the communication account system 300 could associate a 10 minute pre-paid calling card account for a purchase transaction up to \$50.00 and associate a 20 minute pre-paid calling card account for a purchase transaction exceeding \$50.00.

The communication account system 300 could also store the user information in a record and use the record to determine the type and value of communication account to associate. As one example, the communication account system 300 could associate a 5 minute pre-paid calling card account subsequent to a first transaction with the web server 301, and associate a 10 minute pre-paid calling card account subsequent to a second transaction by the same user with the web server 301. As another example, the communication account system 300 could associate an account only to first time users. In this case the communication account system 300 could use the stored information to determine if a current user is a first time user.

The communication account system 300 could also store a record associated with the web server 301. The communication account system 300 could use the record to track accounts associated with the web server 301 and generate billing and reporting information for the web server 301. As one example, the communication account system 300 could provide reporting information on the total number of users who purchased specific products or services from the web server. As another example, the communication account system 300 could provide reporting information on the peak traffic times, and the number of customer conducting different transactions with the web server 301.

Responsive to associating the communication account, the communication account system 300 transmits a response message to the web server 301 indicating the account information at step 406. The web server 301 then provides the account information to the user at step 407 and the process ends at step 408.

FIG. 5 illustrates another example of a network architecture for a communication account system 500 according to the present invention. Those skilled in the art will appreciate numerous variations that do not depart from the present invention. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that various features described below could be combined with the above described embodiment to form multiple variations of the invention.

FIG. 5 depicts users 104, 105, and 106, wireless devices 501, 502, and 503, a wireless network 504, and a communication account system 500. The wireless device 501 is connected to the wireless network 504 and the users 104. The wireless device 502 is connected to the wireless network 504 and the users 105. The wireless device 503 is connected to the wireless network 504 and the users 106. The wireless network 504 is connected to the communication account system 500.

The communication account system 500 could be any communication system that dynamically provides communication accounts to wireless devices 501, 502, and 503 for immediate transfer to users 104, 105, and 106. The communication account system 500 receives communication account request messages from the wireless devices 501, 502, and 503 and processes the communication account request messages to: 1) validate the requesting wireless device, 2) associate a communication account with the requesting wireless device in response to the validation, and 3) generate a response message for the wireless device indicating the communication account information in response to the association.

The wireless devices 501, 502, and 503 exchange wireless signals over an air interface with the wireless network 504. The wireless devices 501, 502, and 503 could be any devices configured to generate and transmit the communication account request messages, receive the response message from the communication account server 500, and provide the communication account information to the users 104, 105, or 106.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the operation of the communication account system 500 according to the present invention. In this example, the wireless device 501 could be a device configured to distribute a communication account in response to a request from the user 104. The wireless device 501 could be located anywhere that communication can be established with the wireless network 504. As an example, the wireless device 501 could be located in a retail store and function similar to an automated teller machine. The wireless device 502 could be used to distribute promotional communication accounts. In this case the user 105 is

the promotion sponsor and the wireless device 502 is used to obtain the communication accounts for the promotion customers. The communication account system 500 could provide the communication account according to the following method.

On FIG. 6 the operation begins at step 600. At step 601, the user 104 or the user 105 requests a communication account using the wireless device 501 or 502 respectively. In response to the request, the respective wireless device 501 or 502 generates and transmits a communication account request message to the communication account server 500 via the wireless network 504 at step 602. The communication account system 500 receives the communication account request message and processes the message to validate the requesting wireless device 501 or 502 at step 603. The validation process includes performing a lookup operation to compare an identification associated with the wireless device 501 or 502 with a list of valid wireless device identifications. Responsive to an affirmative validation, the communication account system 500 processes the communication account request message to associate a communication account with the requesting wireless device 501 or 502 at step 604. If the requesting device is wireless device 501, the type of communication account that would be associated could be determined by the communication account system 500 based on the type of account desired by the user 104. In this case the type of account would be included in user information provided by the wireless device 501 in the request message. If the requesting device is wireless device 502, the type of communication account associated could be determined by a service agreement between the promotion sponsor and the communication account system 500.

Responsive to associating the communication account with the requesting device 501 or 502, the communication account system 500 transmits a response message to the requesting device 501 or 502 indicating the account information at step 605. The requesting wireless device 501 or 502 provides the account information to the user at step 606 and the operation ends at step 607.

The Communication Account System FIGS. 7-8:

FIG. 7 illustrates an example of a communication account system according to the present invention. Those skilled in the art will appreciate numerous variations that do not depart from the present invention. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that various features

described below could be combined with the above described embodiment to form multiple variations of the invention.

The communication account system 700 comprises a communication account server 701 and an interface system 702. The communication account server comprises a request manager 705, an account generator 703, and an account database 704. The interface system 702 comprises a wireless interface 706, a wireline interface 707, and a web interface 708. The request manager 705 is connected to the wireless interface 706, the wireline interface 707, the web interface 708, the account generator 703, and the account database 704.

The request manager 705 could be any device or group of devices configured to receive a communication account request message from one of the wireless interface 706, the wireline interface 707, and the web interface 708, process the communication account request message to associate a communication account with a requesting device, and generate a response message for the requesting device that indicates communication account information. The request manager 705 uses the account generator 703 and the account databases 704 to associate the communication account and provide the communication account information to the requesting communication device.

The account database 704 could be any device or group of devices configured to store records associated with users of the requesting communication device, store records associated with the requesting communication device, and store communication account information for a plurality of account types. The account generator 703 could be any device or group of devices configured to generate communication account information for the request manager 705 and/or the account database 704.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the operation of the communication account system 700 according to the present invention. On FIG. 8 the operation begins at step 800. At step 801, a communication account request message is received by one of the wireless interface 706, the wireline interface 707, or the web interface 708, and is provided to the request manager 705. The request manager 705 processes the communication account request message to associate a communication account with a requesting device at step 802. In response to the association, the request manager 705 selects communication account information for the associated account type from the account database 704 at step 803. Alternatively, the request manager 705 could use the account generator 703 to generate the communication account

information for the associated communication account. Responsive to associating a communication account, the request manager 705 generates and transmits a response message for the requesting device using one of the wireless interface system 706, the wireline interface system 707, or the web interface system 708 at step 804, and the operation ends at step 805. The response message indicates the communication account information to the requesting communication device.

The above-described systems could include instructions that are stored on storage media. The instructions could be retrieved and executed by a processor. Some examples of these instructions are software, program code, and firmware. Some examples of the storage media are memory devices, tape, disks, integrated circuits, and servers. The instructions are operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to operate in accord with the invention. The term “processor” refers to a single processing device or a group of inter-operational processing devices. Some examples of processors are integrated circuits and logic circuitry. Those skilled in the art are familiar with instructions, processors, and storage media.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate variations of the above-described embodiments that fall within the scope of the invention. As a result, the invention is not limited to the specific examples and illustrations discussed above, but only by the following claims and their equivalents.

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method for dynamically providing communication accounts to web servers for immediate download to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a web server;

validating the web server in response to the communication account request message;

5 associating a communication account with the web server in response to the validation;

and

transferring a response message to the web server indicating communication account information in response to the association.

10 2. The method of claim 1 the method further comprising:

receiving the communication account request message from the web server in response to a transaction with the web server by a user.

3. The method of claim 2 the method further comprising:

15 receiving user information in the communication account request message from the web server.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the user information includes information on the transaction with the web server.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the user information includes an identification of the user.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein validating the web server further comprises:

comparing a web server identification to a list of valid web server identifications.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
processing the user information to determine if the user should receive the
communication account;

processing the user information to determine a type of communication account in
5 response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account; and
selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication
accounts based on a determination that the user should receive the communication account.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
10 storing a record associated with the web server.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
storing a record associated with the user.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account,
determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account.

14. A communication account system for dynamically providing communication accounts to web servers for immediate download to users, the system comprising:

a communication account server configured to validate a web server in response to a communication account request message from the web server, associate a communication
 5 account with the web server in response to the validation, and generate a response message indicating communication account information in response to the association; and

a web interface coupled to the communication account server and configured to receive the communication account request message from the web server and transfer the response message to the web server for the communication account system.

10

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the web interface receives the communication account request message from the web server in response to a transaction with the web server by a user.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the communication account request message includes user
 15 information from the web server.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the user information includes information on the transaction with the web server.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the user information includes an identification of the user.
 20

19. The system of claim 14 wherein the communication account server is further configured to compare a web server identification to a list of valid web server identifications to validate the web server.

25

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the communication account server is further configured to process the user information to determine if the user should receive the communication account, determine a type of communication account based on processing of the user information, and select the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts in
 30 response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the web server.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the user.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the communication account server is further configured to determine an amount of prepaid time for the communication account in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account.

27. A computer readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method for dynamically providing communication accounts to web servers for immediate download to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a web server;
validating the web server in response to the communication account request message;
associating a communication account with the web server in response to the validation;

and

transferring a response message to the web server indicating communication account information in response to the association.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving the communication account request message from the web server in response to a transaction with the web server by a user.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving user information in the communication account request message from the web server.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the user information includes
5 information on the transaction with the web server.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30 wherein the user information includes an identification of the user.

10 32. The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein validating the web server further comprises:

comparing a web server identification to a list of valid web server identifications.

15 33. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

processing the user information to determine if the user should receive the communication account;

processing the user information to determine a type of communication account in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account; and

20 selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts if the user should receive the communication account.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

25 storing a record associated with the web server.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the user.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the communication account is a wireless
5 account

38. The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

10 39. The computer readable medium of claim 38 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account, determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account.

15 40. A method for dynamically providing communication accounts to wireless devices for immediate transfer to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a wireless device;

validating the wireless device in response to the communication account request
message;

20 associating a communication account with the wireless device in response to the validation; and

transferring a response message to the wireless device indicating communication account information in response to the association.

25 41. The method of claim 40 the method further comprising:

receiving user information in the communication account request message from the wireless device.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein validating the wireless device further comprises:

comparing a wireless device identification to a list of valid wireless device identifications to validate the wireless device.

5 43. The method of claim 42 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

processing the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account;

processing the user information to determine a type of communication account in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account; and

10 selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts if the user should receive the communication account.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the wireless device.

15 45. The method of claim 43 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the user.

46. The method of claim 43 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

20 47. The method of claim 46 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

48. The method of claim 47 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

25 49. The method of claim 48 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account, determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account if the communication account is a pre-paid account.

50. A communication account system for dynamically providing communication accounts to wireless devices for immediate transfer to users, the system comprising:

a communication account server configured to validate a wireless device in response to a communication account request message from the wireless device, associate a communication account with the wireless device in response to the validation, and generate a response message indicating communication account information in response to the association; and

a wireless interface coupled to the communication account server and configured to receive the communication account request message from the wireless device and transfer the response message to the wireless device for the communication account server.

51. The system of claim 50 wherein the communication account request message includes user information from the wireless device.

52. The system of claim 51 wherein the communication account server is further configured to compare a wireless device identification to a list of valid wireless device identifications to validate the wireless device.

53. The system of claim 52 wherein the communication account server is further configured to process the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account, determine a type of communication account based on processing of the user information, and select the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account.

54. The system of claim 53 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the wireless device.

55. The system of claim 53 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the user.

56. The system of claim 53 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

57. The system of claim 56 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

58. The system of claim 57 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

5 59. The system of claim 58 wherein the communication account server is further configured to determine an amount of prepaid time for the communication account in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account if the communication account is a pre-paid communication account.

10 60. A computer readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method for dynamically providing communication accounts to wireless devices for immediate transfer to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a wireless device;

15 validating the wireless device in response to the communication account request message;

associating a communication account with the wireless device in response to the validation; and

transferring a response message to the wireless device indicating communication account information in response to the association.

20 61. The computer readable medium of claim 60 the method further comprising:

receiving user information in the communication account request message from the wireless device.

25 62. The computer readable medium of claim 60 wherein validating the wireless device further comprises:

comparing a wireless device identification to a list of valid wireless device identifications to validate the wireless device.

63. The computer readable medium of claim 61 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

processing the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account;

5 processing the user information to determine a type of communication account if the user should receive the communication account; and

selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account.

10 64. The computer readable medium of claim 63 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the wireless device.

15 65. The computer readable medium of claim 63 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the user.

66. The computer readable medium of claim 63 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

20 67. The computer readable medium of claim 66 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

25 68. The computer readable medium of claim 67 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

69. The computer readable medium of claim 68 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account,

30 determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account if the communication account is a pre-paid account.

70. A method for dynamically providing communication accounts to communication devices for immediate transfer to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a communication device;

5 validating the communication device in response to the communication account request message;

associating a communication account with the communication device in response to the validation; and

10 transferring a response message to the communication device indicating communication account information in response to the association.

71. The method of claim 70 the method further comprising:

receiving user information in the communication account request message from the communication device.

15 72. The method of claim 70 wherein validating the communication device further comprises:

comparing a communication device identification to a list of valid communication device identifications to validate the communication device.

20 73. The method of claim 71 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

processing the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account;

processing the user information to determine a type of communication account in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account; and

25 selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts if the user should receive the communication account.

74. The method of claim 73 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the communication device.

75. The method of claim 73 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
storing a record associated with the user.

76. The method of claim 73 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

5

77. The method of claim 76 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

78. The method of claim 77 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

10 79. The method of claim 78 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:
in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account,
determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account if the communication
account is a pre-paid account.

15 80. A communication account system for dynamically providing communication accounts to
communication devices for immediate transfer to users, the system comprising:
a communication account server configured to validate a communication device in
response to a communication account request message from the communication device, associate
a communication account with the communication device in response to the validation, and
20 generate a response message indicating communication account information in response to the
association; and

an interface system coupled to the communication account server and configured to
receive the communication account request message from the communication device and transfer
the response message to the communication device for the communication account server.

25

81. The system of claim 80 wherein the first message includes user information from the
communication device.

82. The system of claim 80 wherein the communication account server is further configured to
30 compare a communication device identification to a list of valid communication device
identifications to validate the communication device.

83. The system of claim 81 wherein the communication account server is further configured to process the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account, determine a type of communication account based on processing of the user information and
 5 select the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account.

84. The system of claim 83 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the communication device.

10 85. The system of claim 83 wherein the communication account server is further configured to store a record associated with the user.

86. The system of claim 83 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

15 87. The system of claim 86 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

88. The system of claim 87 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

20 89. The system of claim 88 wherein the communication account server is further configured to determine an amount of prepaid time for the communication account in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account if the communication account is a pre-paid communication account.

90. A computer readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method for dynamically providing communication accounts to communication devices for immediate transfer to users, the method comprising:

receiving a communication account request message from a communication device;

5 validating the communication device in response to the communication account request message;

associating a communication account with the communication device in response to the validation; and

transferring a response message to the communication device indicating communication
10 account information in response to the association.

91. The computer readable medium of claim 90 the method further comprising:

receiving user information in the communication account request message from the communication device.

15 92. The computer readable medium of claim 90 wherein validating the communication device further comprises:

comparing a communication device identification to a list of valid communication device identifications to validate the communication device.

20 93. The computer readable medium of claim 91 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

processing the user information to determine if a user should receive the communication account;

25 processing the user information to determine a type of communication account in response to a determination that the user should receive the communication account; and

selecting the communication account from a plurality of types of communication accounts if the user should receive the communication account.

94. The computer readable medium of claim 93 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the communication device.

5 95. The computer readable medium of claim 93 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

storing a record associated with the user.

10 96. The computer readable medium of claim 95 wherein the communication account is a wireline account.

97. The computer readable medium of claim 96 wherein the communication account is a wireless account

15 98. The computer readable medium of claim 97 wherein the communication account is an internet account.

99. The method of claim 98 wherein associating the communication account further comprises:

20 in response to the determination that the user should receive the communication account, determining an amount of prepaid time for the communication account.

ABSTRACT

A communication account system for dynamically providing communication accounts to communication devices for immediate transfer to users. The communication account system comprises a communication account server and an interface system coupled to the

- 5 communication account server. The communication account server is configured to validate a communication device in response to a communication account request message from the communication device, associate a communication account with the communication device in response to the validation, and generate a response message indicating the communication account in response to the association. The interface system is configured to receive the first
- 10 message from the communication device and transfer the second message to the communication device for the communication account server.

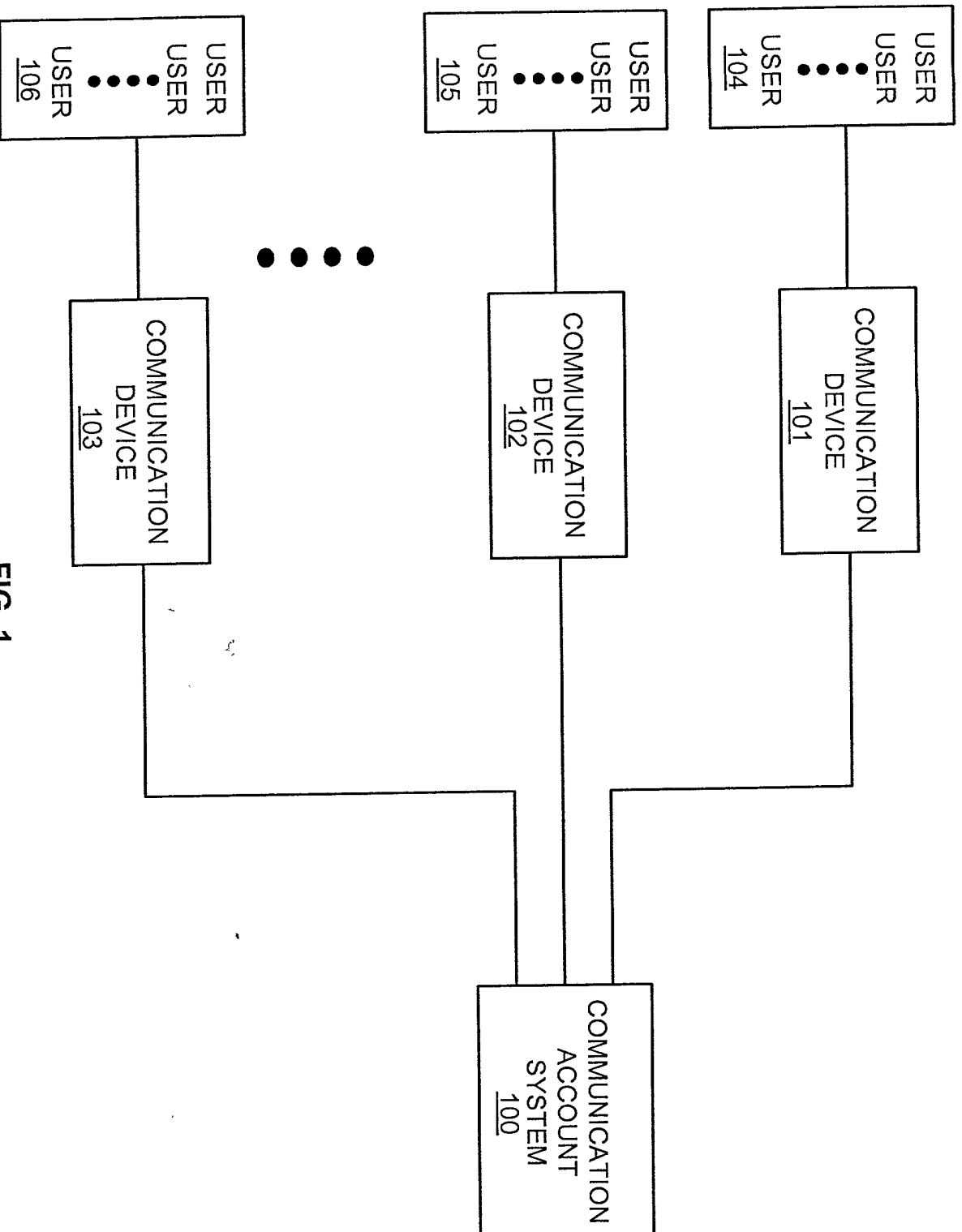


FIG. 1

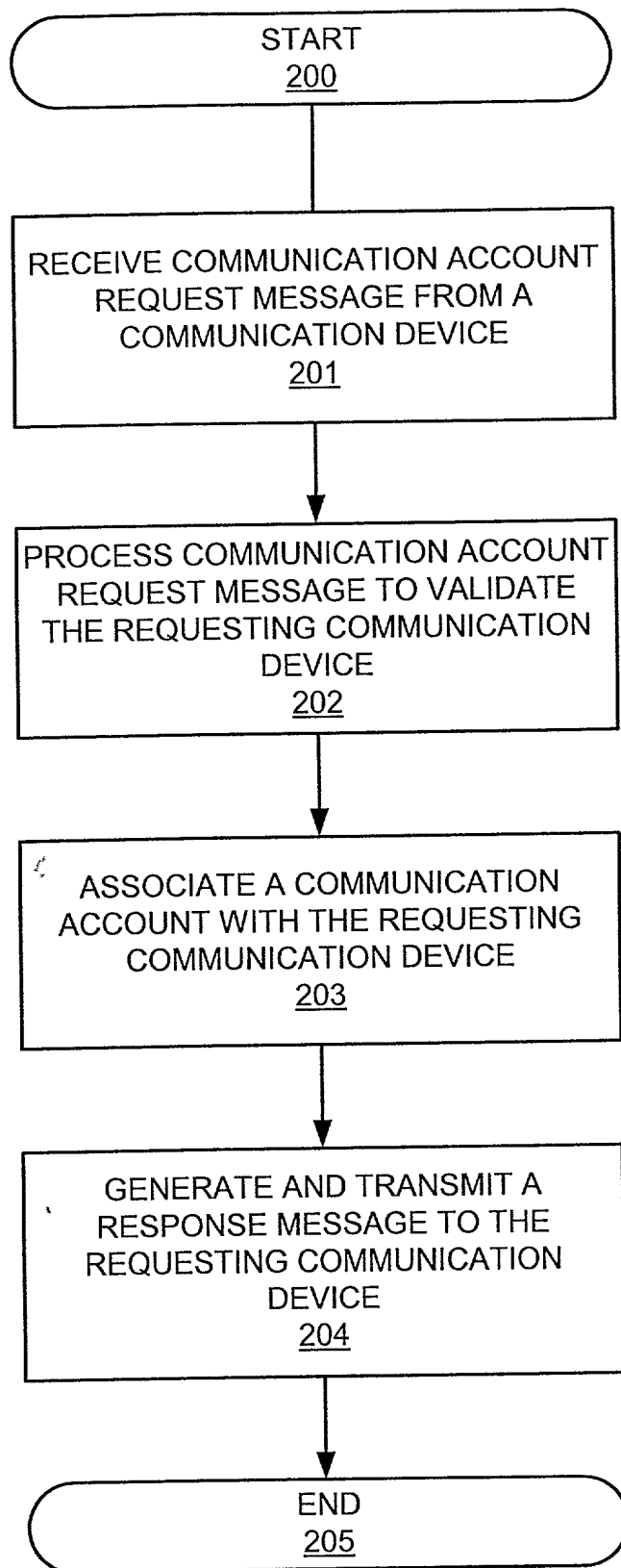


FIG. 2

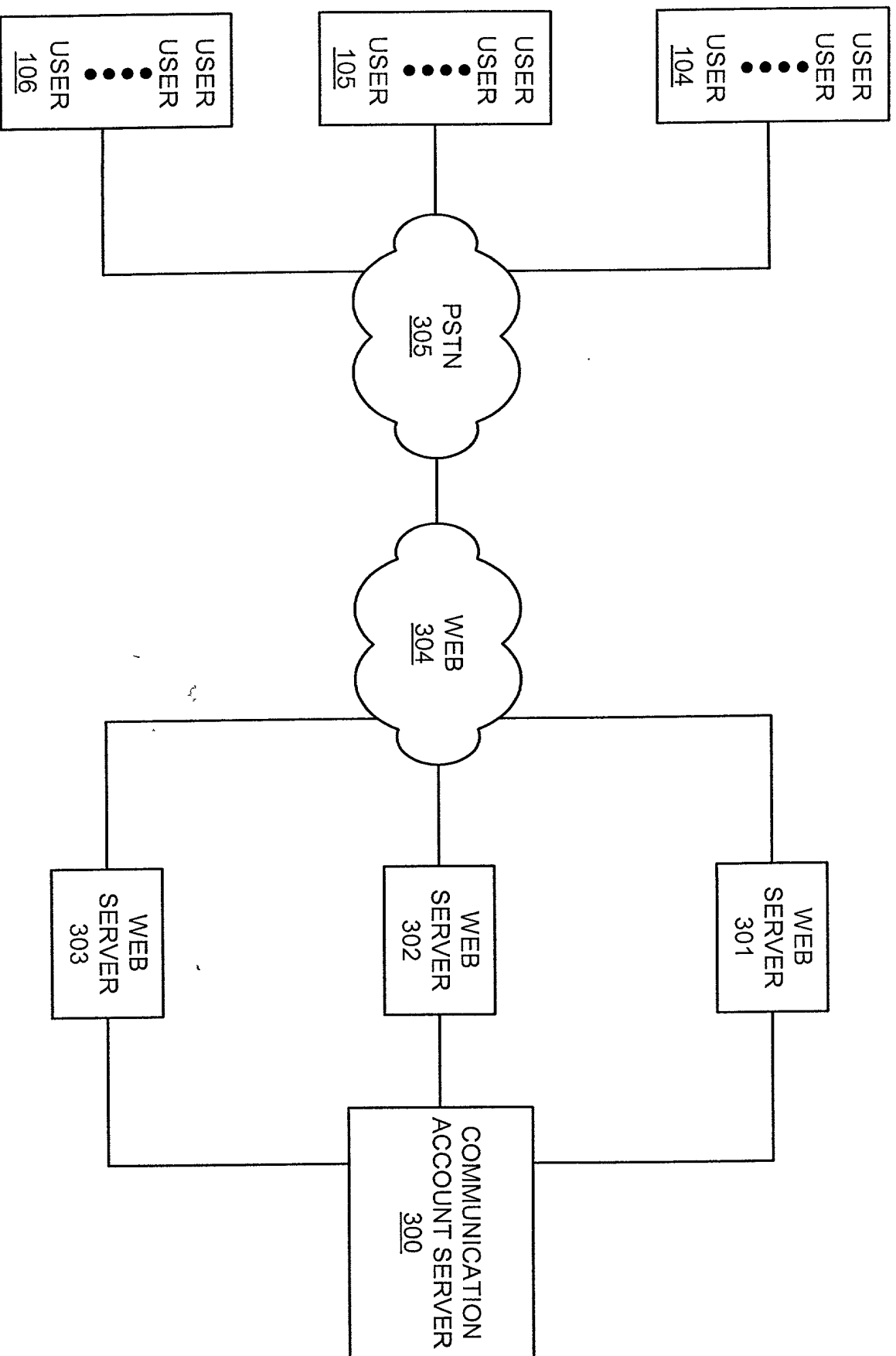


FIG. 3

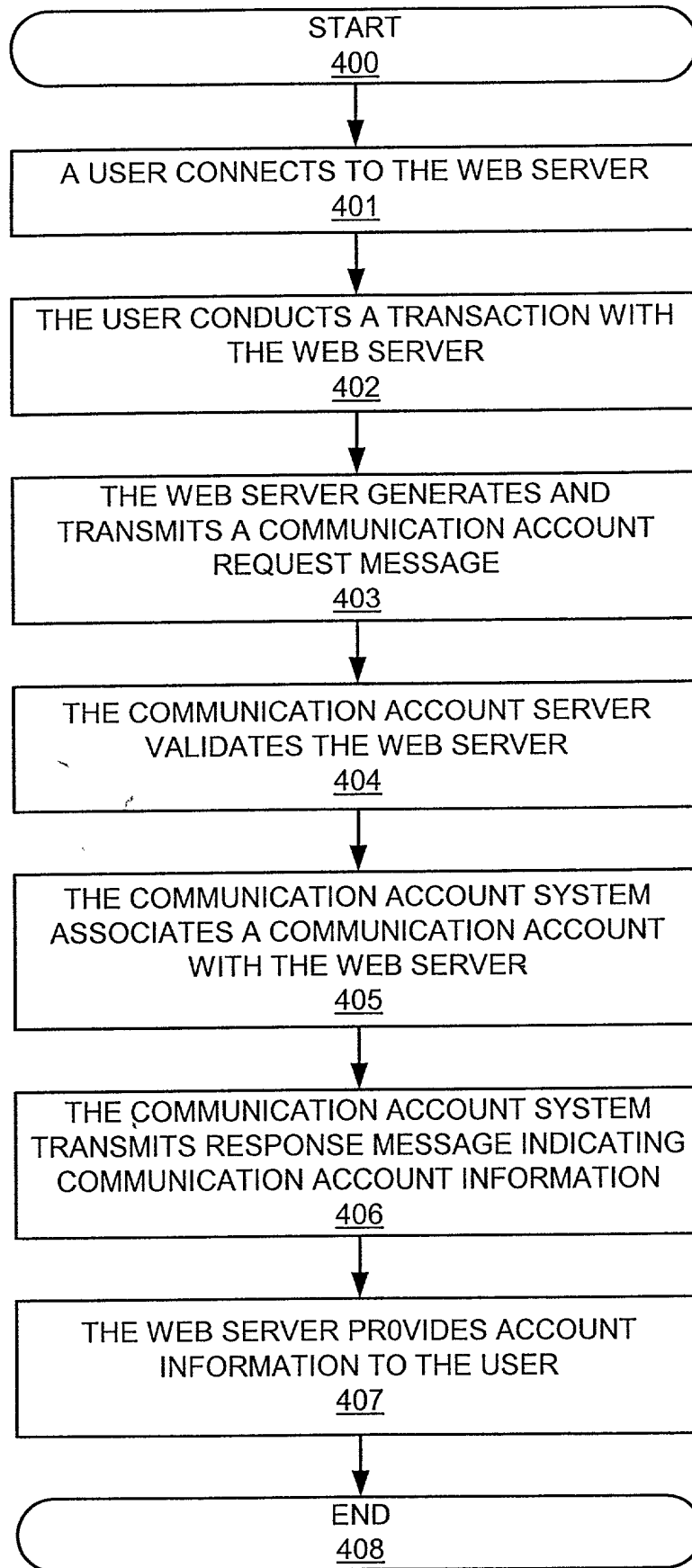


FIG. 4

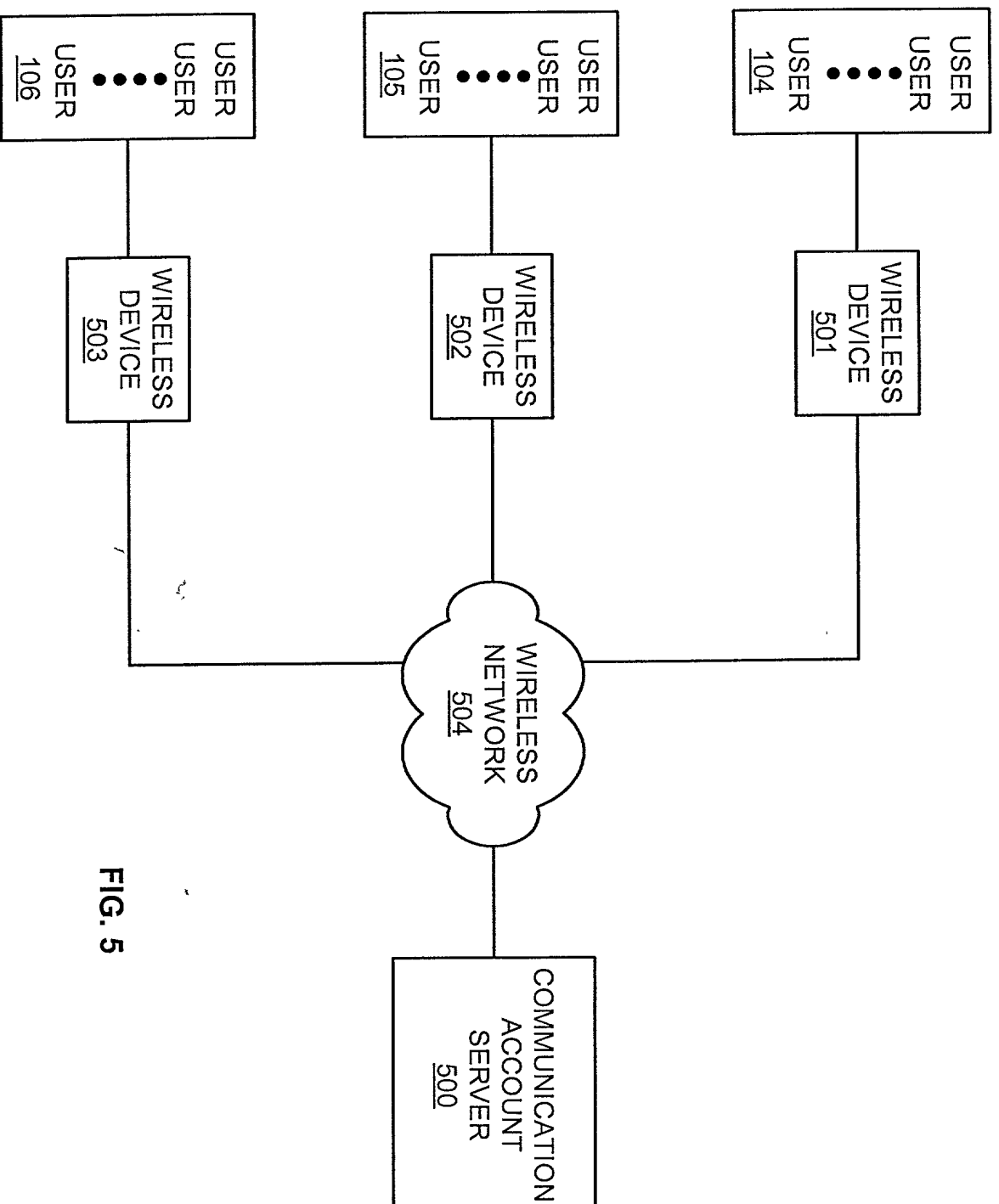


FIG. 5

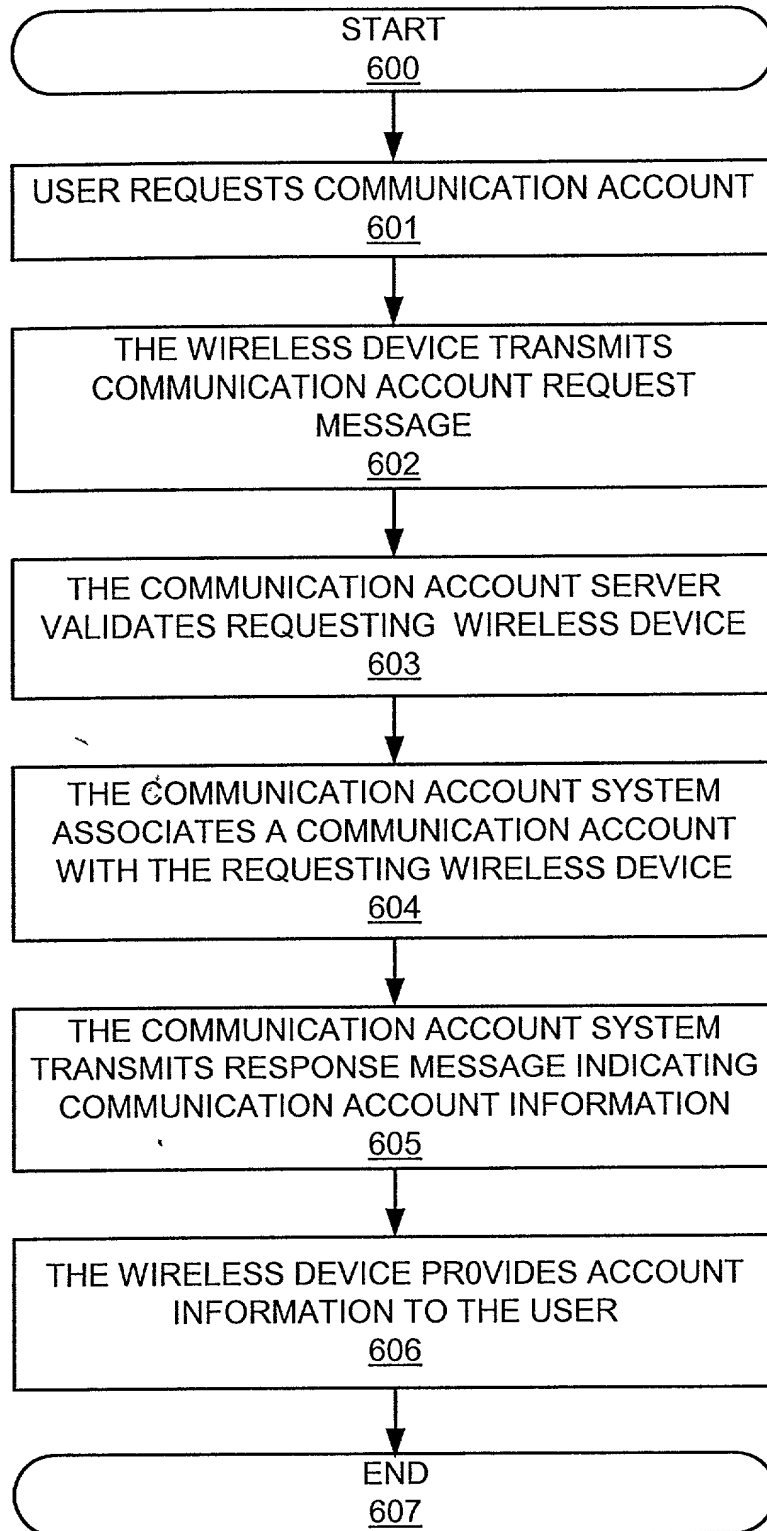


FIG. 6

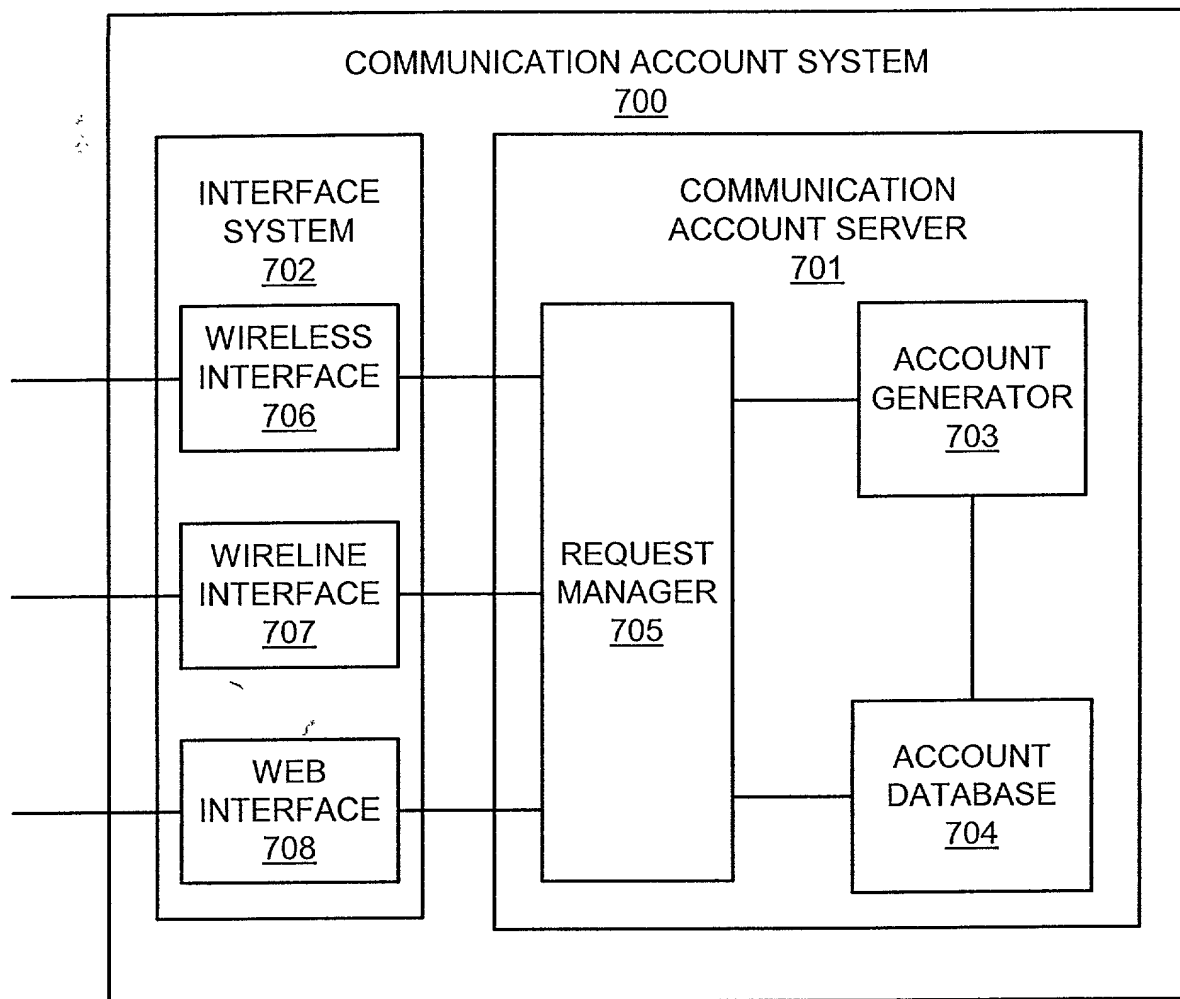


FIG. 7

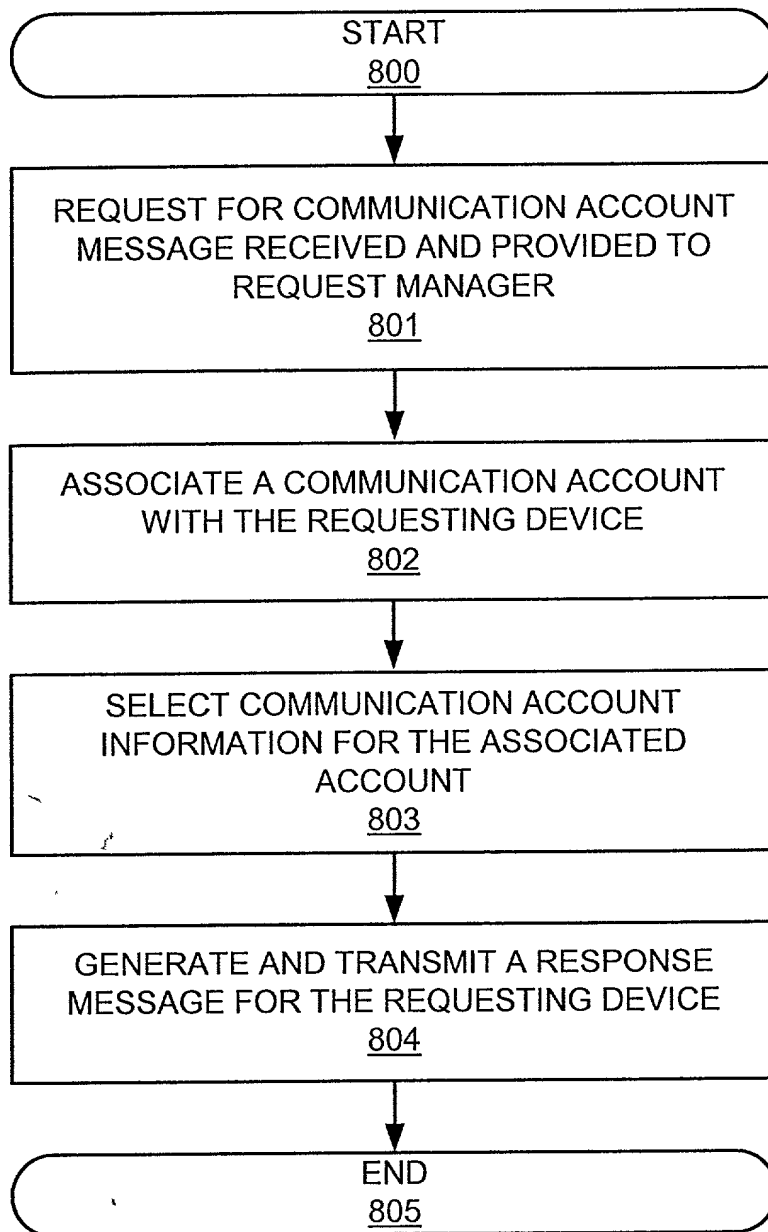


FIG. 8

DECLARATION AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "COMMUNICATION ACCOUNT SYSTEM" the specification of which is filed herewith, if not identified here by filing date and application number, and is attached hereto. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate by me or my representatives or assigns for this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No. _____ in _____ on _____ priority claimed () Yes () No
Application No. _____ in _____ on _____ priority claimed () Yes () No
Application No. _____ in _____ on _____ priority claimed () Yes () No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status-patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status-patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. I hereby appoint, individually and collectively, the following as my/our attorney or agent with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Harley R. Ball Registration No. 31,733;
Steven J. Funk Registration No. 35,875;
Michael J. Setter Registration No. 37,936;
Dan Cleveland, Jr. Registration No. 36,106;
Carl A. Forest; Registration No. 28,494;
James M. Graziano Registration No. 28,300;
Curtis A. Vock Registration No. 38,356;
Thomas Swenson Registration No. 36,696;
William P. Wilbar Registration No. 43,265;
Travis C. Stephenson Registration No. 45,132;
Eugene G. Kim Registration No. 46,267; and
Brett Bornsen Registration No. P46,566

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS TO:

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 021396

Attn: Harley R. Ball
Sprint Law Department
8140 Ward Parkway
Mailstop: MOKCMP0506
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

ATTORNEY CONTACT:

Travis C. Stephenson
Phone: (303) 379-1100
Fax: (303) 379-1155

JOINT INVENTOR

Inventor (1) Michael K. Hargens _____
(Type or Print) (Signature in Full)

Citizenship: United States Date: _____

Residence: 410 West 67th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64113

JOINT INVENTOR

Inventor (1) Jo Temming _____
(Type or Print) (Signature in Full)

Citizenship: United States Date: _____

Residence: 10901 West 131st Street
Overland Park, KS 66213